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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

~~INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~

COUNTRY Brazil

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SUBJECT Communist Activity within Brazilian Armed Forces.

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. On 23 August 1947 a meeting of military and civilian personnel took place at the headquarters of the army battalion, Segundo Grupo de Obuzes, at Itu (northwest of Sao Paulo), with Communist leader Rio Branco Paranhos participating.
2. On the same date, Rio Branco Paranhos, Gomildes de Oliveira (another Communist), First Lieutenant Mario Mattos, one other lieutenant, and two sergeants held a clandestine meeting at a small farm approximately four kilometers from Itu. During the course of this meeting Lieutenant Mattos, who was the only speaker, declared, among other things, that he was in constant touch with Getulio Vargas. He quoted Vargas as saying: "We must prepare for the time after the Petropolis Conference, when Rio Grande do Sul will be ready to support a coup. Our friends in Sao Paulo still have a great deal of work to do to be able to help. We are going to work hard, and we can count upon our friends, Rio Branco and Gomildes, both of whom are in contact with the masses and members of the State Legislature. The Communist deputies shall be responsible for the preparation of the masses, and you here will be responsible for maintaining liaison between the civil and military classes." Lieutenant Mattos further added that on 27 August 1947 there would be another meeting at Fort Itaipu (southwest of Santos), to which all those present must go. Mattos added that within a short time he would go to Santo Angelo, a town in the interior of Rio Grande do Sul, and that if those present would accompany him, they would see for themselves the people upon whom they could count. This meeting in Santo Angelo apparently was to be a joint Communist-Querequista function.
3. At the conclusion, those attending this clandestine meeting expressed agreement with the speaker, and pledged solidarity with him and fidelity to the cause.

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